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FYLDE RURAL DISTRICT

# ANNUAL REPORT

*on the Sanitary and  
Housing Conditions*

*For the Year*

**1 9 3 9**

WALTER HADDOW, M.B.

Medical Officer of Health

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1939



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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER *of* HEALTH

*For the year 1939*



*To the Fylde Rural District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I present to you my final Report as your Medical Officer of Health. At the request of the Ministry of Health it is purely of an interim character due to the necessity of conserving supplies of paper.

There are no statistics as usually supplied by the Registrar-General. Any figures given must therefore be understood to be locally compiled and not corrected for inward transfers.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA.—The area of the Fylde Rural District is at present 33,159 statute acres.

POPULATION.—The population as per the census, 1931, was 15,750, and the estimated population (middle 1938), 9,441.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.—The district is chiefly an agricultural one, but there is a cotton mill situate in Freckleton.

Dyspeptic and rheumatic ailments, due to work in the mills, appear to be the most common troubles associated with occupation,

BIRTHS.—According to available figures, there were 93 births during the year belonging to your area, divided as 37 males and 56 females.

Sub-District.		Males.		Females.		Total
Kirkham	...	36	...	50	...	86
Fleetwood	...	1	...	6	...	7
Total		37	...	56	...	93

DEATHS.—These figures are also obtained from figures supplied by the local registrars. There is seen to be a total of 94 deaths of which 51 were males and 43 females. These were distributed among the various districts, as follows :—

District.		Males.		Females.		Total.
Kirkham Area :—						
Wesham	...	7		8		
Freckleton	...	8		12		
Ribby-with-Wrea	...	4		2		
Westby-with-Plumpton	...	6		2		
Warton	...	8		3		
Newton-with-Clifton and Salwick		3		2		
Treales, Roseacre and Wharles...		5		1		
Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton	...	0		2		
Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck..		1		1		
Weeton-with-Preece	...	0		1		
Elswick	...	2		2		
		44		36		80
Fleetwood Area :—						
Singleton	...	2		1		
Hardhorn, Newton and Staining		5		6		
		7		7		14
TOTAL		...	...	...	...	94

There have been no new decisions as to the admission of cases of diseases such as measles or pertussis.

The Preston, Fylde and Garstang Hospital, at Elswick, near Kirkham, is for Small-Pox. The number of beds is not limited to any one district.

The Fylde Public Assistance Institution, in Wesham has an Infirmary, and receives necessitous cases, and those of maternity, as required. Mental cases are also received or preliminary detention. The accommodation is very good, and the Institution is used by the Fylde Rural District and neighbouring towns.

The total number of inmates in the Institution on 31st December, 1939, was 247 (121 males and 117 females, and 9 children.

The Local Authority does not contribute to any Voluntary Hospital.

The Sanatorium for Tuberculous Cases is situate at Elswick, and is under the control of the County Council.

POOR-LAW INSTITUTIONS.—As mentioned above, use is made of the Fylde Union Institution at Derby Road, Wesham.

THE COTTAGE HOMES, in Moor Street, Kirkham, for destitute children from the Fylde District, consist of modern semi-detached houses, each of which is under the care of a foster-mother, supervised by a Superintendent and Matron. The total number of children on 31st December, 1939, was 80.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—The Ambulance facilities for the district are very good.

(a) For Infectious cases: The Moss Side Isolation Hospital has a Motor Ambulance for conveyance of patients to the Hospital. The Elswick Sanatorium has also a Motor Ambulance for tuberculous patients.

(b) For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases: A Motor Ambulance for the conveyance of necessitous non-infectious and accident cases is hired by the Council when required.

There are privately owned ambulance services in Wesham Blackpool and Preston which provide comfortable transport for those who can afford to pay the cost.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.—A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is provided by the County Council, and is situate in Station Road, Kirkham. The Centre is open for consultation and treatment on Thursday of each week, from 2 p.m. till 5 p.m.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.—Use is made of the Dispensary at Elswick Sanatorium. This is under the care of the Medical Officer of that Institution.

SCHOOL CLINIC.—The Medical Inspection of School Children is carried out in all Schools by the School Medical Officer acting under the County Council.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC.—Treatment is given at the Preston Royal Infirmary, under a scheme of the County Council.

PHTHISIS (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).—5 deaths took place from this cause, 2 males and 3 females.

BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA.—Bronchitis accounted for 1 death and Pneumonia for 3.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—According to local figures there were 3 infantile deaths as follows :—

Sub-District.	Males. Females. Total.		
Kirkham	...	...	...
	2	1	3

Of the two males, one was aged 2 months, the cause of death being broncho-pneumonia, while the other was only 1 day old, being a case of icterus neonatorum. The female death was also one day old in this case, the cause being prematurity.



COMMENTS.—There has again been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year. Regarding causes of sickness or invalidity, there has been nothing noteworthy.

The district is largely agricultural and is on the whole a healthy district. With the exception of mill work, there are no occupations which one could term prejudicial to health. There is no evidence that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults. In millworkers, absence from work in some appears to improve their health, but in others prolonged unemployment appears to induce neurotic ailments.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—There are 3 Hospitals in the district, and one Sanatorium, viz., The Fylde Joint Isolation Hospital, at Moss Side, near Lytham, which is used for Infectious Diseases. This Hospital is used by the following districts:—Fleetwood, Poulton, Thornton, Fylde Rural, Kirkham, Lytham St. Annes, and occasionally by outlying districts.

Extension of this hospital in the nature of a cubicle block of 20 beds has been under construction for some time and is now in use.

Patients are not required to contribute towards cost of treatment. The cost of hospital treatment for infectious diseases to the Rural District for the year ending March 31st, 1938 was £703 11s. 9d., and for the year ending March 31st, 1939, £257 4s. 10d.

No action has been taken or has been found necessary to ensure that the available hospital accommodation is utilised to the best advantage.

Serum treatment has been tried as a routine in cases of Scarlet Fever to try to shorten the stay of uncomplicated cases, but no appreciable shortening of the period of stay in hospital could be noticed. No action has been taken to replace hospital treatment by nursing and treatment at home, this being left in the hands of the doctor in attendance. The great majority of cases are sent into hospital, and no new methods have been adopted for the selection of individual cases for hospital treatment.

### PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

There have been no arrangements made by the Local Authority for nursing in the home, but three separate District Nursing Associations operate in the district. Each employs one nurse, and are self-supporting, no financial obligations falling on the district.

### LABORATORY WORK.

The examination of specimens for the detection of the Diphtheria organism has been carried out at the Preston Royal Infirmary Laboratory.

Specimens of sputum are sent to Elswick Sanatorium for the detection of the Tubercle bacillus.

During the year 1939, 39 specimens of sputum were sent to Elswick Sanatorium for examination, of which 3 were positive.

### THE ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ACTS OR GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS.

There have been no new local acts or adoption of any acts during the year.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Apart from 13 cases of Scarlet Fever and 2 of Diphtheria the district was practically free of notifiable infectious diseases.

With regard to action taken in connection with (a) Contacts, (b) Return Cases, and (c) Carriers, quarantine is practised in the case of (a), Treatment in (b) and (c).

The Schick test has been employed in the Isolation Hospital. No use has yet been made of the Dick test.

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Typhoid is carried out in the Isolation Hospital only.

A supply of anti-toxin is kept within the district at the surgery of the Medical Officer of Health and is supplied to medical practitioners when required.

### SCARLET FEVER.

Cases 13, Deaths 0.

Month.			No. of Cases.			District.
March	...	...	...	1	...	Moss Side.
April	...	...	...	1	...	Clifton
„	...	...	...	2	...	Freckleton.
„	...	...	...	1	...	Wrea Green.
June	...	...	...	1	...	Freckleton.
July	...	...	...	1	...	Westby.
August	...	...	...	1	...	Freckleton.
September	...	...	...	5	...	Freckleton.

Nine of these received treatment in hospital.

### PNEUMONIA.

Notified Cases 2, Deaths 3.

Primary cases alone are notifiable.

One case was notified in January, the other in February.

## DIPHTHERIA.

Cases 2, Deaths 0.

Month.			No. of Cases.			District.
April	...	...	...	1	...	Freckleton.
October	...	...	...	1	...	Staining.

Both of these were treated in Moss Side Hospital.

## VACCINATIONS.

Vaccinations are performed by the Public Vaccinator.

## SCHOOLS.

The medical inspection of school children under the Education Act is carried out in all schools in the district by the School Medical Officer, acting under the County Council.

The sanitary conditions of the Schools are good, on the whole, and they are always disinfected after closure for infectious diseases. All the Schools, with the exception of Treales, are supplied with Fylde water. The latter school obtains its water from a pump.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified, number of deaths from these diseases, number of cases removed to hospital, and deaths in hospital during the year 1939.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)  
DURING THE YEAR 1938.

"NOTIFIABLE" DISEASE.	Total Cases at All Ages.	CASES NOTIFIED.											Total Deaths.	HOSPITAL			
		Under 1.	YEARS.											Total Cases remov- ed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of Persons belong- ing to District.		
			1-2.	2-3.	3-4.	4-5.	5-10.	10-15.	15-20.	20-35.	35-45.	45-65.				65 and over.	
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	13	...	...	...	1	...	7	2	...	1	2	...	...	...	9	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia	}	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	3	...	...	...
Acute Influenzal Pneu- monia .....																	
Diphtheria, including Membrane- eous Croup ... ..	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Enteric Fever (including Para- typhoid) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria contracted abroad ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
In this country ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g.—Chicken-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles and German Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Any other disease... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ... ..	17	1	...	1	...	7	2	...	3	3	...	...	3	11	...	...	...

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 10 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 4 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1939.

AGE PERIODS.				NEW CASES				DEATHS			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.											
0—1	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	...	...		...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...		...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10—15	...	...		...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25	...	...		1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	...	...		1	5	...	...	2	1	...	...
35—45	...	...		1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
45—55	...	...		...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
55—65	...	...		...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...			3	7	3	1	2	3	1	...
				10		4		5		1	

All the cases which died had already been notified under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations.

Notification of Tuberculosis in the Fylde Rural District is, usually, fairly good, and no action has been necessary with regard to wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

The district is under the care of the Medical Officer of the Elswick Sanatorium. Every week, notifications of Tuberculosis (if any) are sent to the County Council. The Tuberculosis Officer visits each patient with the Medical Attendant, and, where necessary, domiciliary or sanatorium treatment is given. On the occasion of death, or removal to a sanatorium, the dwellings are disinfected.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to Tuberculous employees in the Milk Trade, and no action was necessary under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

#### FURTHER NOTES ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infantile Diarrhœa and Chicken-pox are not compulsorily notifiable in the Fylde Rural District. Measles and Whooping Cough are now notifiable.

No special inquiries were undertaken in connection with influenza epidemics, and no other diseases were in evidence which required special attention.

There have been no cases of Lethargic Encephalitis.

No "return" cases of Scarlet Fever were discovered, and no relation between cases of Scarlet Fever and Puerperal Fever have been noted.

There has been no experience regarding Malaria and Dysentery, as no cases of these diseases have been noted, and there is nothing noteworthy in the cases of Pneumonia.

There was no occasion during the year for any report to be made under Section 14 (5) Sanitary Officers Order, 1926.

I take this opportunity of thanking all my former colleagues in my capacity of Medical Officer of Health for your district, which position I have now relinquished.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. HADDOW, M.B.



# The Fylde Rural District Council

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WESHAM.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Fylde Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my fourteenth Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1939.

The following is a Summary of the work carried out during the past year :—

Letters written	...	...	...	...	279
Informal notices	...	...	...	...	79
Statutory notices	...	...	...	...	16
Legal proceedings	...	...	...	...	3

## MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

Notices served	...	...	...	...	10
Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	8

MILK SUPPLY.—This, on the whole, is good. No milk is imported into the district.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders are carried out by the Fylde Rural Authority.

There are 326 Cowkeepers and 11 Registered Dairyman or Milksellers.

The approximate number of Cows in the district is 8,560.



## WATER SUPPLY.

The approximate number of houses in your District with a direct supply from the mains of the Fylde Water Board is 2,604. Approximate number of houses supplied from other sources, 174. The district is very favourably situated in this respect.

Three samples of well water were examined during the year and reported as unsafe for drinking purposes, further means of supply are being examined.

The following is a summary, kindly supplied by the Superintendent, Kirkham Division, Lancashire County Police, of the action taken under the

## FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT 1928

Milk	...	...	...	...	6
------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

The Dairies and Cowsheds are inspected from time to time ; the number during the year being 895.

The number of Dealers' Licences issued by the Local Authority during 1939, in respect of "Grade A" Milk, was 3.

## SEDIMENT TESTS.

Twenty-four samples of milk were examined, six of which proved unsatisfactory.

All samples were found to be genuine.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are 7 licensed Slaughter-houses in the district.

Inspection is carried out during the hours of slaughtering, the approximate quantity of meat condemned being 802 lbs.

## INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power ....	14	—	—
Factories without mechanical power ....	42	—	—
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) ....	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ....	<b>56</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

## DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
(1)				
Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ....	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2) ....	1	1	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ....	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) ....	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ....	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) { insufficient ..... unsuitable or defective ..... not separate for sexes .....}	1	1	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home Work or offences mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937) ....	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ....	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

## BAKEHOUSES.

There are 9 bakehouses. The sanitary condition of these is satisfactory.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Middens ...	...	...	...	...	1,091
„ Pail Closets ...	...	...	...	...	164
„ Fresh Water Closets ...	...	...	...	...	1,409
„ Waste Water Closets ...	...	...	...	...	14
„ Dry Ashpits ...	...	...	...	...	379
„ Movable Ashbins ...	...	...	...	...	1,254

Two privy middens have been converted to the water carriage system.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Nil.

Byelaws were adopted in 1886.

## REGISTERED FACTORIES.

Number of Factories on the Register at the end of the year, 46.

## NEW HOUSES, 1939.

36

## DISINFECTION.

The number of houses disinfected total 15. The rooms are all sealed, and bedding, etc., is hung up in the room and left for 8 hours ; then all washable articles are soaked for a further 24 hours in liquid disinfectant.

There are no common lodging houses, or houses let in lodgings in the district.

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) ... ..	36
(i) By the Local Authority ... ..	2
(ii) By other Local Authorities ...	Nil.
(iii) By other bodies and persons ...	34
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By the Local Authority ... ..	1
(ii) By other bodies or persons ... ..	Nil.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	311
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	311
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	8
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	8
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	2

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	Nil

HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV.

OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	—
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	—
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	—
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	Nil.
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	1
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases...	...	...	...	10

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.

The general requirements of the District are :—

Extension of water mains from Roseacre to Treales and from the Blue Anchor at Esprick to Medlar.

Extension of the sewer at Lytham Road, Warton, and enlargement of the Warton Tanks, additional Tank and contact bed with sprinkler at Ribby-with-Wrea.

The provision of a Sewerage scheme for Newton, in the Parish of Newton-with-Clifton has been favourably considered by the Council and referred to the Parish Council.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

FRED S. ROSCOE,

*Sanitary Inspector.*



